

## A B S T R A C T

A METHOD OF PREPARING A POSTMAN'S WALK WITH BOTH LETTERS  
AND FLATS

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For preparing a postman's walk in a plurality of sorting passes with mail items including both letters (1) and large-format flat items or "flats" (4), the method consists in:

10       - subjecting the letters to a first sorting pass in a first sorting machine (2) and subjecting the flats to a first sorting pass in a second sorting machine (5), with "letters" sorting outlets (3) and "flats" sorting outlets (6) that correspond to one another;

15       - grouping together the mail items coming from corresponding sorting outlets; and

          - performing a second sorting pass manually using a set (21) of trays (8), with various delivery points on the postman's walk being assigned to each tray.

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35       Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2, 38.2, and/or 48.3.